

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UPON DELIVERY

MAY 28, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED UPON
ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Your Majesties, Prime Minister Tindemans, Secretary General Luns, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you for your warm and gracious welcome to Brussels. It is always pleasure to return to the city that many know as the capital of Europe.

Thirty years ago, Western Europe was the victim of wartime devastation, facing hostile forces seeking to dominate the entire continent. The courageous leaders on both sides of the Atlantic responded by creating the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Our alliance has withstood the changes and tests of the past 26 years.

It has secured freedom and prosperity for the western world. It is fitting that the purpose of my first trip to Europe, as President of the United States, is to participate in a NATO summit. I have come to tell my NATO colleagues and the people of Europe:

-- That our great alliance remains strong. To guarantee that vitality, we must vigorously address the problems confronting us.

-- That the United States is convinced that detente with the East can only proceed on a foundation of strong and secure alliance defenses.

-- That NATO is the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy and has the unwavering support of the American public and of our Congress.

-- And that our commitment to this alliance will not falter.

It is in this spirit that I will meet with my colleagues in NATO to discuss issues of direct concern to the peace, security and prosperity of our Atlantic community.

It is also in this spirit that I respond, your Majesty, to your welcome. Belgium's hospitality as host to NATO and to the European communities has made it the heart of both the European and the Atlantic worlds.

Relations between the United States and Belgium remain confident and mature. I know that we will continue as close friends and allies.

#